Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary time (Lk 12:13-21)

This Sunday's reading presents an essential theme that we should never forget. The first part of the Gospel tells the story of a man who invites Jesus to resolve a problem with his brother, who did not share their father's inheritance with him. However, Jesus does not respond positively to this request. He recognises that the man is asking out of greed.

This story has significant relevance to our lives, as many of us may have seen families or individuals in similar situations. Jesus gently refuses to act as the arbiter of justice for the man. Jesus chooses not to resolve the dispute. Instead, He teaches about greed, suggesting that the man's desire for justice stems more from his greed than from a genuine sense of injustice.

In the first reading, we heard about vanity. A man thinks about material things in this world, even losing sleep at night. There are people in this world rushing to accumulate worldly possessions, but they forget that everything here is vanity. These things do not bring ultimate happiness.

If you were cheated out of your inheritance by a sibling, how would you react? Being wronged in this way is undoubtedly a sin and an injustice. However, the more pressing question is how you would respond to being cheated. The typical reaction is to seek justice and retaliate immediately. Yet, this may not be the response that God inspires in us. Instead, when we face injustice, we can love on a deeper level. This should be our response.

The story serves as a reminder that it's important **to be happy with what you have in life rather than complaining about what you lack.** Material possessions are not what truly matter in the Kingdom of God. In the second reading, we just listen to things of the things above, not of the earth.

To emphasise that material possessions are not important in the kingdom of God. Jesus presents a

parable about a rich man. He calls this man a fool, not because he is wealthy, but because of the mistakes he made.. He said, “This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods.”

Here, he was selfish with his possessions and focused only on himself. In this Gospel, he speaks of me more than five times.

Although he had an abundance of possessions, he did not consider the needs of others and became self-centred.

In this parable, Jesus asks important questions: Do you consider others? Do you care for those around you, or only for your family? He encourages us to share our care, time, and wealth. As stated in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away," emphasising the importance of seeking treasures in heaven over worldly wealth. The rich man in the parable missed this lesson. This evening, Pope Leo XIV reminds one million youths worldwide in his catechesis that they should find happiness in giving. We need to create a culture of giving and teach it to the next generation.

So, Prioritise raising your standard of giving instead of focusing on your standard of living.

Therefore, this Sunday gives you two reminders: Be happy with what you have in life rather than complaining about what you lack.

The second one is to prioritise raising your standard of giving instead of focusing on your standard of living.

Let us pray in this Holy Mass. Oh Lord, grant me your grace to be happy with what I have in my life, and guide me to share my blessings with others.

Amen

Fr. Deny